

**Coast Guards**

6037. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a plan to strengthen the Coast Guards; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). The Coast Guard is being strengthened and modernized in accordance with the Five Year Development Plans of the Coast Guard, subject to the availability of funds.

**Review of Imports and Exports  
(Control) Act, 1947.**

6038. SHRI MOSRESHWARSAVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the Imports and Exports (Control) Act 1947 and various orders made under it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these will be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). In the light of new Trade Policy, it is proposed to repeal Imports & Exports (Control) Act, 1947 and enact a new legislation, namely, Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act,

1992. Notice for introducing the Bills in the Lok Sabha has already been given

[Translation]

**Licences for Opium Cultivation in  
Rajasthan**

6039. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) number of new licences issued for opium cultivation in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) whether U.S.A and several European countries are against the said policy in regard to producing more opium;

(c) whether the Government are making efforts to bring down the production of opium in view of the protest of these countries; and

(d) if so, the details of the action plan there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). No new licence has been issued for opium poppy cultivation in Rajasthan during the last three years as the policy of the Government of India is to allow the production of opium only by the traditional poppy cultivators.

Export of Indian opium had been facing stiff competition in the international market from alternate cheaper opiate raw material, namely concentrate of poppy straw, which resulted in accumulation of stocks of opium in India. To reduce existing stocks of opium and to stop further accretion to it, India has reduced licensed area under poppy cultivation progressively over the years from 66,000

hectares in 1977-78 to about 14,211 hectares in 1991-92. The question of any country being against India for producing more opium, therefore, does not arise.

### **Tripartite Meeting on Textile Policy**

6040. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:  
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hold tripartite meeting before making changes in the new textile policy;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Ministry of Textiles have already held consultations with State Governments, Organisations representing various sectors in the Ministry and concerned Ministries like Labour etc., in the Government of India to take care of the interest of all sectors. Abid Hussain Committee also had representatives of concerned Sectors. The Government therefore, feels that necessary consultations have taken place to take a view.

### **C.B.I. Raid at Customs Office, Bombay Airport**

6041. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation raided Customs Office at Bombay airport on January 31 this year;

(b) if so, the details of the irregularities

that have come to the notice as a result of the raid; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officials found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No raid was conducted by CBI on 31.1.92 on the Customs Office located at Bombay Airport, as such.. However, the CBI searched brief-cases of some Customs Officers and some locker rooms etc. located at the Airport.

(b) Nothing incriminating was found in 43 lockers. From 29 lockers, one almirah and one brief-case Rs. 40,300, US \$ 37, 188 bottles of foreign liquor, cigarettes, watches, electronics goods, etc., were recovered.

(c) The CBI has registered 3 cases, one against a Superintendent of Customs and two against Air Customs Officers. The Superintendent from whose brief-case Rs. 7,000/- and liquor bottles were found has been suspended.

[English]

### **Four Laning of National Highways**

6042. SHRIMATIVASUNDHARARAJE:  
Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take up the four laning work of some National Highways with Japanese assistance during the Eighth Plan.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the National Highways identified for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT